

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

/069 W

----- 082770

R 011445Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7509

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0744

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, YE

SUBJECT: YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI'S VISIT TO EGYPT

REF: JIDDA 1440

1. IN SURPRISE MOVE WHICH WAS WIDELY APPLAUDED IN
SANA PRESIDENT HAMDI LEFT FOR CAIRO ACCOMPANIED BY
HASHID PARAMOUNT SHAIKH, ABDULLA B. HUSAIN AL-AHMAR.

2. ACCORDING TO AHMAD ABDO SAID, AL-AHMAR SENT
HAMDI A NOTE ONEDAY BEFORE DEPARTURE ASKING TO GO ALONG.
HAMDI IMMEDIATELY AGREED.

COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF WHO TOOK INITIATIVE FOR
AL-AHMAR TO ACCOMPANY HAMDI ON STATE VISIT, TRIP
MAY BE PRELUDE TO APPOINTMENT OF AL-AHMAR AS
PREDICTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAG. MOVE
CLEARLY CAUGHT SOVIETS BY SURPRISE. AT AIRPORT
DEPARTURE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD CHARGE SOURLY
THAT "ALL YOUR FRIENDS ...ASNAG, BASINDINA, AL-AHMAR---
ARE GOING WITH THE PRESIDENT." SOVIETS HAVE HAD A
NUMBER OF SUCH JOLTS RECENTLY AND LOCAL SPECULATION
IS THAT CALL OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON PRESIDENT
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HAMDI DAY BEFORE TRIP WAS TO OBJECT TO HOSTILE INTERVIEW

WHICH YAR CHIEF OF STAFF AL-GHASHMI GAVE TO SAUDI
NEWSPAPER UKAZ (JIDDA 1440). ANOTHER RECENT REBUFF TO
SOVIETS WAS OBVIOUS AND PAINFUL BOYCOTT OF LAVISH SOVIET
ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION HERE IN SANA. INCIDENTS OF
THIS SORT WHICH CALCULATED TO PLEASE SAUDIS AND
DISPLEASE SOVIETS, SERVE TO SOME EXTENT TO TEMPER OUR
STRONG SUSPICION THAT SOVIET ARMS DEAL MAY STILL BE ON IN
BIG WAY.
RANSOM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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